

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Comprehensive Interpretive Plan

Foundations Section – public comments

The comments in green are those provided by individuals during the public meetings held on March 6 and those received by email and regular mail as of March 26, 2010. This list will be updated weekly.

What do you think is special, important, or significant about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore?

Please see the ten statements below about the park's significance as a national park that are suggested by stakeholders and park staff.

1. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is the birthplace of American ecology, the place where Henry Cowles, the "father of ecology" described ecological succession for the first time. The park remains the textbook example of the process, with all stages of dune succession visible within a short distance.

Henry Cowles is said to be the father of ecology, but what about the Native Americans?

I value this story as being #1 top priority for interpretation.

What about the Native Americans' input?

This is very important – HC Cowles Story.

Cowles did plants and their environs – Victor Shelford did work on fauna.

2. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provides unique opportunities for observing and understanding how Lake Michigan was created and how dunes are formed.

Please! Please continue and add to the story of how glaciers sculptured the northern Indiana landscape and how Lake Michigan was formed.

Lakeshore levels are a phenomenon that challenges the Lakeshore. Low levels are good (?) and encourage building: high lake levels cause damage to dunes, houses, etc. Shipping likes high levels; boaters like the levels sufficient to use their boats. Health of the GL fishery is not addressed nor the impact of aquatic invasives on it.

3. Access to the lakeshore at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provides opportunities for understanding today's Lake Michigan as a vital national resource, as well as a place of recreation.

Tell the story of bird migration and the role Lake Michigan play in their travel. Birds migrate north through Indiana, see the lake and have to fly east or west. This makes for great bird viewing in the Dune Country!

I would like to see the Duneland harvest festival re-instated in the manner it was 15 years ago. It was living history you were able to focus on the Native Americans in the area, the French settlers, and the Swedes. Our students today learn thru visually seeing things as they occurred in the past. It also brought a lot of people to the park. Please reinstate the many vendors; the one I attended last year was so small, it wasn't worth attending.

Begin to address the gap between people of color and stewardship!

I would like to say the farmers and the animals should come back to Chellberg Farm. The program that had been in place was very successful. Families could learn – through a living display of crops, machines, and animals and people – about our past and heritage. Locations in an urban area, like our Dunes National Lakeshore give relief to urban dwellers, and encourage learning opportunities about how once again we may need to live closer to the land is very important. Where milk, eggs, pork and wheat, corn, sorghum, really come from are the real eye openers for the young. This would be the best of interpretation!!

Perception and realities need to be authentic in regards to exclusion of African Americans in the formation culture of creation of national parks, Richard Lew, NDD-Nature Deficit. Myth that people of color are not connected with nature is a distortion; accessibility, interaction, welcome, co-creation, co-creators of the reality that we did not have a part of.

Yes, as long as access is managed to protect the resources. Endangered and threatened species especially need protective management.

4. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's soaring dunes tower above Lake Michigan, creating an extraordinary visual effect.
5. The proximity of a wide variety of ecosystems, including lake, shore, dunes, wetland, bogs, fens, marshes, woodlands, climax forest, prairies, oak savannah, and rivers, at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provides visitors with an unusual opportunity to observe an extraordinary degree of ecological diversity within a single park.

I agree!

Biodiversity, Dunes Ecology, Great lakes/Lake Michigan, Rare Species

The more access the public has to these areas of ecological diversity the better access to park trails, bike paths, even a shuttle bus, (from train and visitor center) is important.

6. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is an ecological crossroads for plant diversity, featuring an outstanding 1,400 different plant species within its 15,000 acres, many in unique combinations.

Highly significant theme, plant and animal biodiversity ties in with work of Prof. Cowles and geological history of dunes.

Significance extends beyond plants to include other elements of biodiversity – bugs, reptiles, amphibians, etc.

7. The human-altered landscape of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore tells the story of 10,000 years of settlement and urbanization, from the earliest native people to agricultural development to urbanization to industrial development to the environmental conservation movement to restoration of natural areas to "green" conversions and sustainability initiatives.

Celebrate Earth Day every day; Promote the 3 Rs; rain gardens, native plants, sustainable practices.

Proposal to rename Mount Baldy to Octave Chanute Dunes – March 2010. Being that Octave Chanute was one of the most significant contributors to the advent of modern aviation (airplanes) and that his experiments with Gliders took place on the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan not far from the site and that modern gliders are still being flown from this dune to this day, we propose to honor the memory and accomplishments of this man via a change to the name of the significant remaining dune. Our suggestion is to change the Mount Baldy

to Octave Chanute Dunes, and to also have a small plaque in the information area which details the accomplishment of flying a heavier than air glider from the Indiana dunes in July 1896.

I do not understand what farm animals at Chellberg have to do with park heritage on interpretive mission. There are many farms nearby with excellent educational and interpretive programs (ex: County's Sunset Hill Farm; MI City Zoo, and Fair Oaks 45 min. away in Rensselaer, IN).

My son became an anthropologist because of places like Bailly and Chellberg. Bring back the living history aspect of the park.

It's nearly impossible to walk on a farm to see how they operate. So to have a chance to see live animals, real farm equipment, and to relive the old pioneer days is quite amazing. I've had fond memories from my early childhood of to the farm and would love to share those memories with my children.

Whatever is necessary we need to bring back the animals, keep the farm maintained and keep the public informed about new activities. The more we the public knows the more we can do to help. We might be able to achieve more awareness through printed materials, through various websites and more meetings.

Bring Chellberg back.

Chellberg is well preserved. The entertainment animals were introduced – not authentic. I feel bad for the animals stuck in an un-stimulating environment only to entertain the occasional visitor during the summer. They have to live there alone for the whole year just so someone can look at them for a couple of minutes. There is a beautiful, real farm down Interstate 65 that takes visitors all year and provides the animals with humane accommodations. We can't reproduce a 1000 acre farm around here.

8. **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, in effect among the first urban initiative parks, provides opportunities for millions of urban dwellers to experience outstanding and varied outdoor recreational activities, access to Lake Michigan beaches, and scenic beauty within a few miles of their homes, and marks a pioneering effort to bring national parks to the people.**

Gary city beaches have the best sand, black families use of park in day mainly for family picnics and get-togethers.

Park should take note of Charles Osborne "first abolitionist" according to WL Garrison and Frederick Douglass in Jackson County (family site in NE corner) on US 6 at 600 East – Duneland Historical Society placed marker in 1958, removed to Old County Jail in Valpo, 1996.

Public access to Nat'l park is a basic right of citizens. Telling this story is important.

To call this an urban initiative park ignores history. When first proposed in 1916, urbanism was not a part of the proposed Sand Dunes National Park. Fear of industrial encroachment was.

This is not an urban park. It is a traditional national park in an urban setting.

Proximity to urban areas (Gary) in many's "Backyard" Everything!

9. **The beauty of Indiana Dunes, shared by artists of many kinds, helped inspire people to save the park and continues to inspire artistic creativity, lift spirits, and foster stewardship.**

Include Dudley's contribution; Dudley is a painter of the Indiana Dunes. His work brought people to the tip of Lake Michigan and was used in early efforts to preserve the dunes.

Nat'l Lakeshore collaborative programs are important. Ex. Artist in Residence, Beverly Shores Columbian Exhibition home tours, Flying Wild with Field Museum. Would like to see a collaborative program with local school systems using interpretive themes.

Herb Read, Charlotte Read, Save the Dunes, 1st witness, Porter county involved in legislation, Dorothy Buell

Early artists – Read – Dudley and others understood the need for advocacy for preserving the Indiana Dunes – a theme not addressed in the above statement.

Emphasize Frank Dudley, Earl Reed – he used his art to educate people about the dune and promote the state and nat. parks. Also Arthur E. Anderson, Photographers, also John Nelson.

10. The location of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore amid industry and commerce and within an hour's drive of the third largest metropolitan area in the country demonstrates the ongoing national struggle between the needs of urbanization, industry and conservation.

And the continuing lack of land use planning in the area.

Industrialization paradoxically provides better opportunities for natural diversity than residential development. In fact, the local industries have protected large swaths of land and have granted access to interested parties.

Primary interpretive themes. Please see the five suggested broad themes to create the foundation for the ideas and stories to be told at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

The comments in green are those provided by individuals during the public meetings held on March 6 and those received by email and regular mail as of March 26, 2010. This list will be updated weekly.

1. Factors that include geological processes, climate, weather, and geographical location came together at Indiana Dunes to create remarkable species diversity within a variety of ecosystems, providing outstanding opportunities to appreciate the rich ecological relationships that nurture and sustain our civilization.

Valuable, essential, very important theme.

This is very important.

We must remove invasive species and help preserve the Natural Ecosystem of the Dunes.

Geologic changes over time and contrasts among the shorelines and moraines is a fascinating story not captured adequately in Theme 1.

The lake as a melted glacier, esp. in the winter; Aeolian loess deposition.

You could have signs posted along the trails that show pictures of plants, the marshes and animals and explain "how they work." Then the hikes could be self-guided. Thank you.

2. Beginning a legacy of scientific inquiry and education that continues today, Henry Cowles, a botanist from the University of Chicago, published an article, entitled "Ecological Relations of the Vegetation on Sand Dunes of

Lake Michigan," in the Botanical Gazette in 1899 that brought international attention to and inspired the effort to preserve the intricate ecosystems existing on the dunes. Research at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is increasingly vital, helping us address current threats to our world that include human impact both locally and globally.

This theme of research & restoration (with removal of invasives) is vitally important. Fosters future conservation & preservation efforts. Involves general public in valuing the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Telling the whole inclusive if complete story of history should be called, whole story or inclusive story, or complete story; Who did Henry Cowles learn from? As I walked and read my way through public forum I was reminded of the use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam Conflict.

This is what makes the Indiana Dunes Nat'l Lakeshore so special – very important for interpreting to the public.

Not to be overlooked are the threats of climate change on Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes, as well as direct impacts on the plants and animals treasured in the Lakeshore.

3. The cultural resources of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore demonstrate a wide range of land use strategies over more than 10,000 years, revealing the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment and our changing perceptions of the value of natural environments, and guiding us to decisions that are vital to our survival.

Ask me about Chanute. The living history of flight at the Dunes, A program to have USHPA hang glider & para-gliders pilots and others be active docents when onsite, perhaps wearing "Ask me about Chanute" T-shirts.

Continue historical interp., science workshops for High School students.

Put all the animals back so more people can come back at Chellberg Farm.

I am afraid, by the time the politicians, and bureaucrats are done, Chellberg will be lost and maybe Bailey also. Chellberg should never have been closed. Our generations to come will never see how their ancestors lived. Your attitudes need adjusted!

Return Chellberg as a living history farm.

The Chellberg Farm serves as a time capsule from an agricultural America that no longer exists.

We must save our heritage by keeping the Farm.

Bailey needs to re-opened and more effort to make it available on Sundays.

We need to have Indiana History curriculum incorporated in plans for Chellberg and Bailly.

Restore Chellberg Farm as a living farm – farmer, interpretation, animals

Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead are stories that need telling and the facilities themselves need rehabilitation and restoration. Good Fellow Lodge is also an important cultural resource.

4. Situated close to one of America's largest metropolitan areas, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provides a natural setting for millions of people to experience scenic beauty, artistic inspiration and recreational opportunities, reminding us of the costs and benefits of urbanization, and of our need as humans to seek renewal of body, mind and soul.

Douglas Center – my children were Junior Rangers at the Douglas center over 25 years ago. Besides being used as an educational center, many of the holidays were celebrated there; this introduced the community to the Douglas Center. As it stands now, the community is not aware of it because it has been closed so long. I believe you need to put more banners up. One at the entrance of Lake Street – continuous flyers sent to schools in the community, combine art and science together. Have performances there. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts could use the Douglas Center to earn their badges. Have Native Americans from the area come and present the culture of their community. Bird watching, Artist retreat; most people are not aware of it. I have written some suggestions that can be used.

SIGNAGE

The stewardship and open access to public parks is an important theme. Scenic beauty & recreational use highly valued.

Recreational use of Lake Michigan is important.

I want to run up and down a dune with my friends.

This renewal was provided to millions of urbanites of Chellberg Farm for many years until 2008. You have already defeated this theme for urban school children forever.

Add cultural and historic setting to Theme 4.

5. **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the scene of intensive public interest and passion regarding its preservation for over 100 years, demonstrates the national struggle between the needs of urbanization, industry and conservation, reflects the historical national and state park preservation movement, and serves as both model and “cautionary tale” in the fields of resource acquisition, preservation and restoration.**

The new and growing significance of this national park in the expanding movement to restore native plants and habitat does not seem to be recognized in your statements. This evolving effort is enhanced by the unusual geography of this park with its jigsaw layout – surrounding industry in some areas, threatened by new development in other places. In fact, the park is in the midst of what can almost be considered a restoration revolution involving government agencies, corporations, land trust and conservation organizations, and private property owners in many forms of partnerships. Another related omission is failure to address the significance of this park as part of the Chicago Wilderness efforts to restore and maintain biodiversity in a major urban area.

The significance of the lakeshore is likely personal to each and every visitor, as it was and is to those individuals and groups who fought and continue to fight for the park, that includes Chellberg Farm, for adequate funds for management, and for friends to acquire all the authorized land Indiana dunes National Lakeshore needs to be re-designated a national park. Comprehensive planning must include the Indiana Dunes State park and Indiana DNR to enhance the entirety that is in line with the Lakeshore. I question whether 5 themes are sufficient. Ditching, draining, and highway building (Burns Ditch, Brown Ditch, Kempler Ditch) and US 12 and US 20 are impacts that may in the future present opportunities for restoration.

It also demonstrates the power of development and destruction as opposed to the power of the people to bring about different choices.

Save the Dunes which was responsible for the 1st enabling legislation creating the park should be recognized by NPS for the vital role in the creation, expansion and maintenance of the park.

There should be a permanent exhibit about the 100 year struggle to preserve the dunes as State & National Parks. Use photos, text, books, etc. to tell the story of the people who spent their lives to do the job against those who wanted to industrialize the entire shoreline. Start with Jensen, Cowles, Mather, Dudley, Sheehan, Buell, Douglas, etc. the story of how the park advocates opposition to the harbor was essential to obtain a “compromise” which led to the park. Tell the story of the Dunes expansion bills which doubled the park size and included critical areas left out of the 1966 park bill. Tell the story of the destruction of the “Central Dunes.” Tell how the harbor and steel mills are obligated to use “maximum feasible control of the sources of pollution – which has NOT been done and is polluting the park today. Tell park visitors about the two films made about the park history – and SHOW THEM. Explain the lessons of not taking action. Credit Save the Dunes and Izaak Walton League.

When I visit Indiana dunes National Lakeshore, I want to _____ [please fill in the blanks with an action word]

Hike, bike, birdwatch, do in-the-field nature study

Hike the Cowles Bog trail, find wildflowers and walk the beach. We live in the park for now. It is possible to feel you are alone in the dunes, and can ignore the trains, planes, and autos. It is so small a park that a bad development decision or authorized land not purchased could have a large impact on the visitor experience.

Get away from the city and enjoy a unique hike along a quiet lakeshore.

I want to have resources beyond the NPS maps that help me interpret/educate my kids about the park, its history and its importance.

Take our dog with us to a beautiful natural area.

Go somewhere outside of the “normal” Chicago parks.

See more people exploring the park beyond the beach and learning more about the incredible unique habitats.

Take a mini-vacation away from Chicago and enjoy some relaxation and respite at the park.

Hang out at the beach; beach walks.

Love walking all the different trails through a wide range of habitats.

I love that I can go to a national park so close to home.

Family, multi-generational activities

Explore outdoor areas/beaches

Get information about local flora/fauna with options/resources to dig deeper.

Overnight camping opportunities

Suggested hikes and must see outdoor sites

I like to take the train out to the park. Once at the train station, it can be tough to get to some of the areas. Some ideas: have more maps/guides at the stations; rental bikes could be offered at the stations; shuttles from stations (this was great at BioBlitz.)

Enjoy a hike with my family away from the city; sit on the beach.

See a bog.

Swim, picnic, relax, walk the shoreline.

In my personal life, I have been meaning to re-visit the dunes for a long time. The dunes hold a special place in my heart as I went there during a most memorable biology field trip my freshman year of high school. As an adult I think it would be great to promote the dunes as something couples can do on a long weekend holiday—get away for a day.

Continue to maintain/improve camping sites and promote the park as an easy getaway for Chicago families.

After I soak up the sun and views of the lake, I want to learn about the dunes—their history, what lives on/in them/their future.

When I visit the Indiana Dunes, I want to explore the dunes to see the biodiversity of the plants and animals.

Personally I love to visit the bog; climb Mt. Baldy; enjoy the solitude of Porter Beach and visit the nature center, but not all in one day!

I like to hike the dunes; learn dune ecology or wildlife management efforts; picnic at the beach; swim in the Lake Michigan; “feel” like I am in a national park and a special place.

Find adventure; walk in park; discover something new; challenge myself physically, mentally and emotionally; connect to the land and myself; meet a snake, frog or butterfly.

Enjoy the unique natural features of IDNL—birds, flowers, beach, etc.; quiet recreation; I’m not a beach person in busy season. I like the quiet times and spaces. Set aside beach areas for wildlife only. All the public to view these areas from viewing platforms or remotely through video.

Focus on this site more than publicizing other parks.

Participants were asked to finish the statement: “When I visit Indiana Dunes N.L. with my organization, I want to _____. ” Responses include:

Environmental education opportunities

Overnight programming space

Resources that highlight Midwest regions, such as invasive species, conservation issues

I haven’t taken advantage of the dunes on behalf of my agency, but now I’m thinking of opportunities such as citizen science projects and a site for meetings for professional development.

Teachers and students to experience the unique biodiversity that is in their backyards and to enjoy their time outside.

Learn more about water quality; is BP Amoco still a concern?

Are their combined sewer overflow concerns (CSOs)?

Has footprinting been done on the sand for E-coli? Are gulls the chief pathogen concern?

Continue to guide families in unstructured nature exploration and discovery. Facilitate outdoor play.

I would want to be able to send our visitors to experience the dunes and be able to learn why dunes are important, what lives there, and to enjoy the scenery.

Have a training of the biodiversity in that area. Bring employees to learn more about the history, plants and animals.

I want to work with the Dunes as a collaborator on programs, where appropriate, so that new audiences learn about us and the Dunes and the resources we have to offer.

My agency attends educator workshops at Indiana Dunes; always looking forward to more.

Support big programs like BioBlitz; retreats for staff; send kids to camp like Mighty Acorns; take agency sponsored field trips.

Bring families, teens and youth from the city to: unplug, discover something new, and find out how close it is and accessible; meet people to guide us; introduction to careers and connect to a resource in our backyard.

Integration of ecological information, research and regional planning; in some way expand common education efforts beyond Mighty Acorns.

We can't go out of state with our agency but what we would like to see is continued management of the dune habitats and expanded educational programs for the public.

See the species unique to the dunes.

Learn why the health of Chicago region is dependent on the dunes.

Great site for a youth field trip.

Use to increase awareness of fragility of ecosystems and interplay of built vs natural environments

Great for "ecosystem surveys" for students/teachers; i.e. rivers, lakes, dunes, savannas, etc.

General Comments/Questions not to specific suggested significant statements or themes:

Interesting to note the absence of the historical segregation in park areas within NWI. What is the significance of its above and current planning efforts?

Badges represent power, authority and often conflict; The "point" at night in Chicago, young black people using the beach to socialize; Too hot during the day to use the beach; people of color recreate differently; get out of your comfort zone, create green jobs and job opportunities for people of color in the interpretation field; people of color use resources differently.

How does NEPA plan work in disturbed areas, does it cover the total park?

Do all activities have to be covered by a plan? How many plans does INDU have?

1) How do you differentiate between interpretation and education? What about inspiration! 2) Who formulates goals/themes? 3) How is public involved? 4) How do science and existing research factor into goals and themes 5) How does NPS justify (or not Justify) dramatic change; i.e. decline of Chellberg Farm as an example.

1) Why are you spending so much time teaching us about a planning process that we have little to not input into? You make the plan, ultimately. 2) you keep asking us what we want. Haven't we made it clear? Talk, Talk, Talk, Talk, Talk,

Until a new interpretive plan is finalized is the park required to function under the existing plan or the temporary plan?

Is a NEPA required of ongoing programs? (vs. new programs) If a program is discontinued, does it need NEPA before being reinstated?

1) Impacts of climate change will become apparent here and interpretation of the changes could become an important part of INDU interpretation. Is this possible here? How and when can it become an integral part of interpretation here? 2) How do those of us with specific knowledge on our resources participate in these processes?

Please do not bring back farm animals to the Park. They were not part of any heritage or park experience. The animals were poorly housed and were exhibited in an artificial environment. They had nothing to do with the overall park themes of plants, dune succession, unique habitats and species biodiversity. My children do not miss seeing them – in fact, they felt sorry for the animals when they were there. I'm mailing in my comments because a few people in the community have made a big deal about this – they are angry and sometimes disagreeable about the animal issue. So I am afraid to speak out in public. Please do not bring back farm animals.

I would like to thank the staff, interpreters, and consultants who conducted the materials presentation on Saturday, March 6th. Their enthusiasm, expertise and friendly exchanges with myself and the public-at-large is much appreciated. Thank you for an outstandingly excellent presentation with outreach to the public in every way possible (in-person, e-mail, survey, USPS mailers). My strongest support is for the interpretive themes of Biodiversity, Succession, Lake Michigan and National Park. Please do not bring back farm animals - they are not appropriate and do not fit into the park's interpretive experience. In fact, in the past, they detracted and distracted from the national park experience.

I know that you are putting together a new National Lakeshore Park Interpretive Plan and that as part of this you seek wider public input than in the past. This is a very good thing. Thanks for asking. Let me start by adding my name on behalf of my family to all those others who were distressed by the National Lakeshore Park's failure to continue both the farmer and all the farm animals at the Chellberg farm. As I remember it these included a cow, sheep, goats, geese, chickens, and of course the draft horses with the farmer always working while dressed in period clothing. My family loved the farm which was open to the public on weekends with enactors cooking on a wood stove, washing clothes by hand and generally demonstrating daily life for a farm family in Northwest Indian in the early 1900's. Through it my children (and even my wife and I) along with so many others learned about an almost vanished way of life, and we even got a bit of insight into what is a more sustainable way of farming. I'm sorry to reveal this but I am bitter because my tax dollars along with those of others had gone to restore the Farmhouse, the barn and the other outbuilding, and this was good government expenditure but now I have to say for what? Though my children are now fully adults and on their own. And they no longer even live nearby. It saddened me beyond words when the Park administration so thoughtlessly eliminated this fine program. It's my fear that unless the farm is quickly restored that my grandchildren will never have the same wonderful opportunity as their parents, my children, did when they were young. All this, as far as I have heard, coming only because of a changed allocation of money. Clearly someone there has made a very bad bargain. At least they did from me and my family's perspective. So my comment for the "themes" for the new Interpretive Plan is this: In any educational endeavor I urge those in charge to reverse quickly this tragic mistake. So if bringing back the farmer and the animals and resuming weekend activities is again a part of the new Interpretive Plan then put me down as a strong supporter. Otherwise you can count on me as being one of the Park's stronger critics this to anyone who is in charge or to our elected representatives in Congress. Thanks for considering this.

The most important issue is Chellberg Farm, and you are doing everything to avoid it. You want a plan? It is simple: Bring back Chellberg Farm.

I would like to protest against the use of captive live animals as a form of entertainment in the national lakeshore. I think this is basically an unethical and abusive use of the animals. It ignores the fact that animals have particular psychological needs of their own and if those needs are not met in the appropriate setting the animals suffer. Putting animals on public display for no other purpose than to entertain the public is inherently highly risky of becoming abusive. An animal can be kept in a psychologically stimulating habitat without suffering apparent damage. I don't think the national lakeshore has the space or the personnel to maintain a working zoo that would be of benefit for the animals. I have been following the discussions in the local press and I have not become aware of any compelling reason for animals to be at Chellberg farm that would be in any way of benefit to the animals. All of the arguments that I have seen have been emotionally based and appear to be whimsy: basically, the proponents want to see the animals there just because they want to see them there. The best argument they can make is that somehow having animals there would be "educational." On top of all that, there is the major issue of disease transmission from people to the animals and from animals to the people and also physical danger and harm to people who get too close to animals with which they are not familiar. This whole enterprise appears destined for some major failure. I can certainly agree that it would be "cute" and entertaining to have a few various farm animals right nearby for me to come and look at every few years. However, I realize that if I required this and that I would be just whimsical and foolish. I certainly would never spend my own money to do this. If the government is going to be responsible with my tax money, which is still my money, I don't want it spent this way.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

The overall National Lakeshore themes of Biodiversity, Conservation/Preservation, Lake Michigan – ecology & cultural Heritage (and recreational access) are perfect interpretive themes for the park.

Paul Douglas Center is underfunded and underused – offer more classes there. Make a maximum effort to stop pollution of the park. It can be done if the NPS puts out the effort. Restore Cowles Bog and the Great Marsh thru Bev. Shores.

Don't sugar-coat the dune destruction by the steel mills. Speak up against pollution that impacts the park and its visitors.